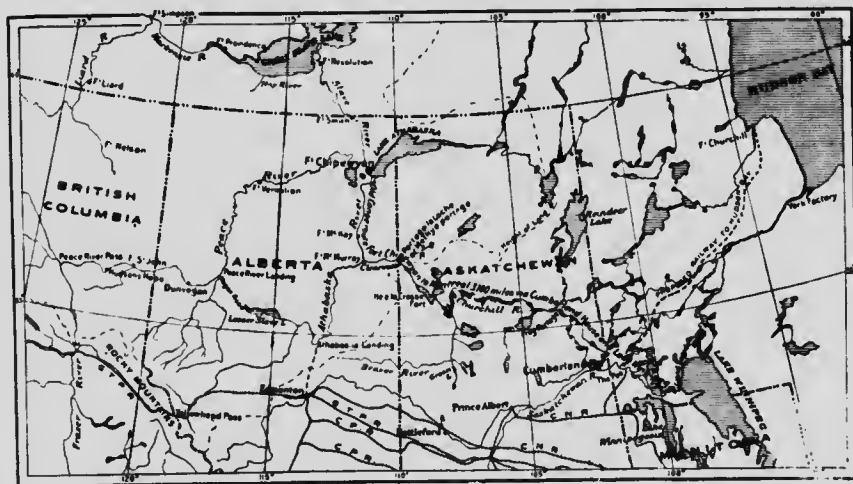


River one would avoid the worst piece of the road. From Montreal Lake to Lac la Ronge the Montreal River is full of treacherous rapids, but they too can be run.

There are several canoe routes from Lac la Ronge leading in almost every direction. To reach the westerly side of the tract Green Lake road is the obvious way. It also is the better route to follow to Cree Lake and other points north of the Churchill.

The Green Lake road is good to Devil's Lake, about 70 miles from Prince Albert, and there is a water route from this lake which has been travelled but I am informed is not practicable for loaded canoes. From Devil's Lake the road crosses the Shell River and becomes rough and crosses some bad swamps. The Big River is crossed about four miles north from Shell River. Both these rivers are bridged. After crossing Big River the road traverses a piece of hilly country for about twenty miles and then returns to the valley of the river. After following the valley for about four miles it follows a small creek for some eight or ten miles, when it becomes very bad and swamps occur frequently. The last twelve miles to the freight depot at the foot of Green Lake is almost impassable. From this freight depot the canoe route on Green Lake and Beaver River is good. There are no portages on the river going north. Rapids occur but they are easily run. The La Loche River, by which the connection is made to the Clearwater River en route to the Athabaska, is very shallow in places and is difficult to ascend owing to numerous rapids. Indians coming from Fort Chipewyan or Fond du Lac on Lake Athabaska, come via Cree Lake and down the Mudjatik River, but returning they go via Clear Lake, Island Lake, thence by water course with portages to Sandy Lake, thence by the Gwillim River to the height of land, where a portage of 1,100 yards long crosses the height of land; thence a small lake and river brings one to Cree Lake. This region is reported to contain good indications of minerals.



MAP SHEWING PART OF THE OLD FUR-TRADERS' CANOE ROUTE FROM MONTREAL LAKE TO FT. CHUPEWYAN ON LAKE ATHABASKA.

The old canoe route of the fur-traders, 3,000 odd miles in length, from Montreal Lake to Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabaska, passes along the north limit of the district covered by my exploration. This route is shown in part on the small accompanying map. It left the Saskatchewan near Cumberland House and a chain of waterfalls followed to Frog Portage, at which point the Churchill was reached, thence up the waters of this river with its numerous lake expansions to Portage la Loche, thence